- 24. A method of treating an individual diagnosed with or suspected of suffering from a disease characterized by hyperproliferating cells which comprises the step of administering to said individual an effective amount of the injectable pharmaceutical composition of claim 20.
- 25. A method of treating an individual diagnosed with or suspected of suffering from a disease characterized by undesirable cells comprising eliminating the undesirable cells by administering to said individual an effective amount of the injectable pharmaceutical composition of claim 18.
- 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the capsid protein, or functional fragment thereof, is WNV capsid protein, or functional fragment thereof.
- 27. The method of claim 22, wherein the disease is cancer.
- 28. The method of claim 22, wherein the administration step is accomplished by intratumoral injection of the injectable pharmaceutical composition.
- 29. A method of identifying an individual exposed to *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* comprising the steps of:
  - a) contacting antibodies specific for *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein with a sample from the individual; and
  - b) detecting whether said antibodies are bound to *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein from the sample,
  - wherein detection of binding of the antibodies to *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein is indicative of exposure of the individual to *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus*.
- 30. The method of claim 24, wherein the capsid protein is WNV capsid protein.
- 31. A kit for identifying individuals exposed to a Flavivirus or Pestivirus comprising

- a) a first container comprising antibodies specific for a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein; and
- b) a second container comprising *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein, or a fragment thereof.
- 32. The kit of claim 31, wherein the first container comprises antibodies specific for WNV capsid protein and the second container comprises WNV capsid protein, or a fragment thereof.
- 33. A method of identifying an individual exposed to a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* comprising the steps of:
  - a) contacting a sample with *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein; and
  - b) detecting whether said *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein is bound to antibodies in said sample,

wherein detection of binding of *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein is indicative of exposure of the individual to *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus*.

- 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the virus is WNV and the capsid protein is WNV capsid protein.
- 35. A kit for identifying individuals exposed to a Flavivirus or Pestivirus comprising
  - a) a first container comprising Flavivirus or Pestivirus capsid protein; and
  - b) a second container which contains antibodies which specifically bind to *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein.
- 36. The kit of claim 35, wherein the capsid protein is WNV capsid protein.
- 37. A vaccine composition comprising
  - a) an immunologically effective amount of *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof; and
  - b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 38. The vaccine of claim 37, wherein the *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein, or immunogenic fragment thereof, is WNV capsid protein, or immunogenic fragment thereof.
- 39. A vaccine composition comprising
  - a) nucleic acid encoding *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof; and
  - b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 40. The vaccine of claim 39, wherein the nucleic acid encodes WNV capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof.
- 41. A method of treating an individual exposed to a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* by administering a therapeutically effective amount of capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, from a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus*, or a nucleic acid encoding capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, from a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus*.
- 42. The method of claim 41, wherein the virus to which the individual is exposed is WNV, and wherein the capsid protein, or fragment thereof, or the nucleic acid encoding the capsid protein, or immunogenic fragment thereof, is from WNV.
- 43. A method of protecting an individual from *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus* infection by administering a prophylactically effective amount of capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, from a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus*, or a nucleic acid encoding capsid protein, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, from a *Flavivirus* or *Pestivirus*.
- 44. The method of claim 43, wherein the virus against which the individual is to be protected is WNV, and wherein the capsid protein, or fragment thereof, or the nucleic acid encoding the capsid protein, or immunogenic fragment thereof, is from WNV.